

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesy of telephone interview dated July 18, 2007 in which Applicants and the Examiner discussed the claim amendments presented in the response. No conclusions of patentability were reached.

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-33 and 46-50 are presented for examination. Claims 1 and 46 have been modified. Claim 51 is canceled. No further claims have been added. No new matter has been added.

Examiner rejected claims 1-33 and 46-50 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 00/72534 A1 (Rabe-Hesketh et al) and U.S. Patent No. 6,742,043 (Moussa et al).

Rabe-Hesketh discloses removing an email attachment and replacing the attachment with a link in the email. The link references the original attachment stored in a server available for later retrieval. Nonetheless, as correctly stated in the Office action, Rabe-Hesketh fails to disclose or suggest formatting attachments based on a user's formatting preference.

Moussa is directed at reformatting and delivering a requested attachment based on information indicative of an email client's capability (Moussa, Col. 16, lines 28-31). The email client makes a request for an email along with information indicative of the email client's capability (Moussa, col. 16, lines 34-46). The email server reformats the email attachment and sends the email with the reformatted email attachment to the email client (Moussa, col. 16, lines 50-62). Nevertheless, Moussa does not disclose

substituting a link in the email to the reformatted attachment in place of the reformatted attachment.

Claim 1, as amended, recites:

In an online messaging system supporting transmission of attachments, a method for automatically processing e-mail messages containing attachments, the method comprising:

- specifying a preference for formatting attachments that accompany e-mail messages;
- receiving a particular e-mail message having a particular attachment;
- detecting capabilities of an intended recipient's receiving device, wherein the detecting is performed dynamically, during a request from the intended recipient to retrieve the particular e-mail message;
- responsive to detecting the intended recipient's receiving device and responsive to identifying the particular attachment as exceeding capabilities of the intended recipient's receiving device, removing the particular attachment from the particular message, creating a reformatted attachment based on the specified preference, and inserting a link into the particular e-mail message, said link capable of referencing the reformatted attachment;
- delivering the particular e-mail message to the intended recipient;
- and
- in response to invocation of the link by the intended recipient, retrieving a copy of the reformatted attachment.

(Claim 1, as amended) Claim 1, as amended, recites, "inserting a link into the particular e-mail message, said link capable of referencing the reformatted attachment."

Because the Examiner admits that Rabe-Hesketh does not disclose formatting an attachment based on the user specified preference, Rabe-Hesketh cannot disclose "inserting a link into the particular e-mail message, said link capable of referencing the reformatted attachment." Furthermore, because Moussa does not substitute a link for the reformatted attachment, Moussa cannot disclose this claimed element.

Thus, neither Rabe-Hesketh nor Moussa disclose or suggest, “inserting a link into the particular e-mail message, said link capable of referencing the particular attachment formatted based on the specified preference.” as recited in claim 1.

Applicants’ linking is supported at Page 8, Line 19 – 21 and Page 20, Line 24 – Page 21, Line 2.

Therefore, claim 1 and claims 2-25 that depend on claim 1 are not obvious over Rabe-Hesketh and Moussa.

Claim 26 recites:

In an online system, a method for providing digital images to target devices, the method comprising:
receiving an e-mail message having one or more attached objects;
detecting capabilities of an intended recipient’s receiving device, wherein the detecting is performed dynamically, during a request from the intended recipient to retrieve the e-mail message;
responsive to detecting the intended recipient’s receiving device and responsive to identifying the objects as exceeding capabilities of the intended recipient’s receiving device, detaching said objects from said message and automatically transforming copies of said objects to a resolution fidelity that is more useful to said target devices;
for each detached object, generating a reference allowing retrieval of a transformed copy of the detached object; and
delivering the e-mail message to the target devices, the e-mail message including said generated reference for each detached object.

(Claim 26). For the same reasons as discussed in claim 1, neither Rabe-Hesketh nor Moussa teach or suggest “generating a reference allowing retrieval of a transformed copy of the detached object”. Therefore, claim 26 and claims 27-33 that depend on claim 26 are not obvious over Rabe-Hesketh and Moussa.

Claim 46, as amended, recites:

An e-mail system for providing e-mail having attachments, the system comprising:

an e-mail server for:

receiving a particular e-mail message having an attachment, the particular e-mail message being addressed to a recipient having a target device capable of receiving e-mail, the attachment including one or more objects, and

detecting capabilities of the target device, wherein the detecting is performed dynamically, during a request from the recipient to retrieve the e-mail message;

a transformation module for transforming the objects of the attachment to a desired format, based on capabilities of the target device; and

an attachment processing module for replacing the attachment with at least one reference responsive to detecting the target device and responsive to identifying the attachment as exceeding capabilities of the target device, wherein the at least one reference allows retrieval of at least one of the transformed objects;

a retrieval module allowing retrieval of the transformed objects, in response to invocation of at least one reference.

(Claim 46, as amended). For the same reasons as discussed in claim 1, neither Rabe-Hesketh nor Moussa teach or suggest “replacing the attachment with at least one reference responsive to detecting the target device and responsive to identifying the attachment as exceeding capabilities of the target device, wherein the at least one reference allows retrieval of at least one of the transformed objects.” Therefore, claim 46 and claims 47-50 that depend on claim 46 are not obvious over Rabe-Hesketh and Moussa.

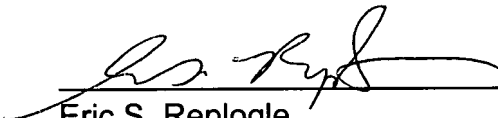
Applicant respectfully submits that in view of the amendments and discussion set forth herein, the applicable rejections have been overcome. Accordingly, the present and amended claims should be found to be in condition for allowance.

If a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Eric Replogle at (408) 720-8300.

If there are any additional charges/credits, please charge/credit our deposit account no. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 7/18/02


Eric S. Replogle
Reg. No. 52,161

Customer No. 08791
1279 Oakmead Parkway
Sunnyvale, CA 94085-4040
(408) 720-8300